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Arran's Weekly Newspaper **SATURDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2015** No 2042 60p

FREE INSIDE
your 2016 Calendar



DON'T FORGET
next week's Arran Banner will be available from Wednesday 23rd December

Head teacher posts may be axed in school management shake up

Parents across the island have expressed concern over proposed changes which are being considered to the staffing of Arran schools.

Under draft management restructuring proposals, seen by The Banner, two primary school head teacher posts would go. Instead six of the island primary schools, with the exception of Lamlash,

REPORT
by **HUGH BOAG**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

would come under a single head of campus and two deputy head teachers who would take the operational lead for three schools each, but who would also have a teaching commitment.

While the two deputy

head teachers at Arran High School would have a teaching commitment added to their administrative role.

All this has led to fears that full time teaching posts could be lost somewhere down the line.

Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class would remain under the high school umbrella with Barry Smith continuing as head of campus for the primary and high school. It would retain a deputy head teacher, three class teachers and an early years class teacher, leading to claims of preferential treatment for the school.

to North Ayrshire Council's Education Department.

At an earlier meeting Head of Service (Schools) Steven Quinn argued that the restructuring was necessary given the falling school numbers and said the review would lead to more consistency in teaching across the island schools.



Lamlash panto heralds Christmas countdown

Simple Simon, played by Allan Little, is surrounded by the villagers during the first of the four sell-out performances of Lamlash Drama Club and Friends' pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, in the community theatre. For full picture coverage and review see centre spread. 20_b51bean01

'These changes represent drastic cuts to teaching staff,' says parent



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Head teacher posts may be axed

Continued from page one commitments. One would have responsibility for Brodick, Corrie and Pirmill and the other Whiting Bay, Kilmory and Shiskine.

Brodick and Whiting Bay would have a principal teacher and two class teachers, while Kilmory and Shiskine would have two class teachers and Corrie and Pirmill one teacher each.

One parent said; 'These changes represent drastic cuts to the teaching staff currently in schools which will have a significant detrimental effect on our children. All parents need to be aware of this and

the fact that the local council is endorsing it.' A spokeswoman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We have developed a draft proposal for a new leadership structure for the island's schools, which we hope will support our drive for continued improvement in all of our schools. This proposal has been developed in consultation with our head teachers and has also been shared with representatives of each parent council for initial comment and opinion.'

'Work is still ongoing to develop a final proposal which is anticipated to be ready early in the new year.'

Tributes pour in for 'inspirational' Iain

Tributes have been paid this week to the founder of the Auchrannie, Iain Johnston MBE, who died at his home in Brodick last Thursday (December 10). He was 82 and had been ill for some time.

Described as a 'true gentleman' and an 'inspiration' Iain dedicated the last 28 years of his life to building the Auchrannie Resort for the benefit of the island.

Born and raised in a council house in the Knightswood area of Glasgow, he left school at 15 and worked in a bank before completing his National Service with the RAF.

He first came to Arran in 1978 and ran the Blackwaterfoot Post Office and The Book and Card Centre in Brodick before becoming the island tourist officer, which first got him interested in the hospitality industry.

He bought the Auchrannie in 1988 and it opened in June of that year, and the rest, as they say, is history. He received an MBE in 2011 for his services to tourism.

In a statement management at the Auchrannie said: 'Iain was a very generous man who dedicated the last 28 years of his life to building Auchrannie for the benefit of the island. He lived a simple life and was proud and happy to have the opportunity to be of service to his team,



Iain Johnston after receiving his MBE in 2011.

Auchrannie's guests and the community of Arran.

'We know that those of you who know him will remember him fondly and we are all grateful for his part in creating the amazing Auchrannie Resort. Without Iain's vision, passion, drive and generosity none of this would have hap-

pened. Many thanks to everyone for the messages of support received by the team at Auchrannie and Iain's friends and family.'

Arran Dairies and Taste of Arran managing director Alastair Dobson posted on Facebook: 'A very sad day for Arran and her residents

and guests. What an inspiration and mentor. I will miss him. Not as much as his family and team. My thoughts are with them.'

Head receptionist at The Douglas Hotel Kate Russell posted: 'I had 21 years working for this wonderful man, a sad day for the Auchrannie family, what Iain did for Arran was fantastic and what a legacy he has left us. Condolences to all.'

VisitArran posted that his passing was 'a loss to Arran as a whole'.

'At one point in his career, Iain was the tourist officer for the island, and from this his vision and enthusiasm to develop Arran's tourism offering grew. Iain was a true gentleman, and I'm sure you will join with me in extending sympathy to all his family, friends and colleagues. He will be sadly missed but leaves an astounding legacy which has shaped, and will continue to shape, Arran's tourism industry,' they said.

A celebratory memorial service takes place at the Auchrannie Spa Resort today (Friday) at 11.30am to which all family, friends, Auchrannie guests and members of the community are welcome to attend. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, will be split between Friends of the Beatson and Arran Mountain Rescue.

Our offices will be closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th December and Thursday 31st December and Friday 1st January 2016

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Diana in final six of national carol competition

An Arran composer has reached the final of a national Christmas carol competition run by the BBC.

Diana Hamilton from Lamlash is one of six finalists who could win the BBC Radio 3 Breakfast Carol Competition and everyone on the island who votes can help her lift the prize.

Retired teacher Diana, who conducts the amalgamated Arran Singers, entered the competition for amateur composers to write a choral setting for Comes the Light, a new poem by Roger McGough, commissioned by BBC Radio 3.

Live

The six shortlisted entries are now being performed live on Radio 3's Breakfast show by the BBC Singers, with the winner to be decided by public vote.

Diana is the only Scottish finalist out of more than 400 original entrants.

The BBC Singers' chief conductor David Hill, who chaired the judging panel, said: 'Our finalists have brought Roger's fantastic poem to life and I am very excited to hear what Radio 3 listeners make of their

compositions in the coming days. I was astounded by the quality and quantity of entries we received and I am delighted that by performing them on Radio 3, the BBC Singers will be able to showcase the work of six very talented amateur composers from across the UK.'

Along with Mr Hill, the judging panel consisted of a range of celebrated musicians, producers and composers, including Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music and associate composer of the BBC Singers.

Listeners have the opportunity to vote for their favourite composition on the BBC Radio 3 website. Voting is now open and closes at 5pm on Tuesday, December 22.

Performed

The winning carol, receiving the most votes, will be announced and performed live on Radio 3's Breakfast on Wednesday, December 23 and then throughout Christmas day on the station.

Diana received her musical training at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, now the Royal Scottish Conservatoire,

where she studied piano, voice and percussion.

After 28 years teaching in Claremont High School in East Kilbride she came to Arran in 2005 to take up post of principal teacher of music at Arran High School and is now retired.

Formerly conductor of the Lochranza Choir and the Rowan Singers, she now conducts the Arran Singers and sings with the small vocal ensemble 'Ain't Misbehavin', a small vocal ensemble.

Diana also plays in a string quartet, and now and again tries her hand at composition.

Diana said: 'During a career of 33 years in teaching, I've done many musical arrangements for various

ensembles of different sizes and one or two compositions for percussion ensemble.

'Although I've written many arrangements for schools and some for choirs, I have not composed many pieces.

'In 2012 the Eumalia Ensemble played a string quartet, and joined with me in a short piano quartet I composed, as part of the McLellan Festival, and in a subsequent festival I composed incidental music for the McLellan play 'Carlin Moth'. I have also been commissioned to write some songs.'

Anyone wishing to vote for Diana, can go online to the BBC Radio 3 Carol Competition.



Diana at the piano in her home in Lamlash. 20_b51carol01

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Lochranza trials for new ferry

A new £12.3m diesel-electric hybrid ferry, launched last week, is expected to serve the Lochranza to Claonaig route during its commissioning trials in the spring. The Banner has learned.

The MV Catriona was launched at the Ferguson Marine shipyard in Port Glasgow last Friday morning by Transport Minister Derek Mackay.

The ship is almost 150ft long and can take up to 150 passengers, 23 cars or two HGVs.

It will use a low-carbon hybrid system that combines traditional diesel power with electric battery power and will lead to a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

An official announcement on the route it will serve is expected next year.

Full report next week.



Patricia Gibson MP at Westminster after she was elected.

Arran's new MP defends highest expenses claim

North Ayrshire and Arran's new SNP MP has defended the fact she has the highest expenses claim in Scotland.

Figures released by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority revealed Patricia Gibson has claimed back £35,349.85 between May and July.

The three-month spend included £17,160 on accommodation rent and £9,500 on office rent, but the MP defended the amount she spent this week.

Mrs Gibson told The Banner: 'The reason my accommodation and office expenses seem high is because I paid the yearly rent in advance in order to negotiate the cost by £3,500. Therefore, these annual costs have distorted the quarterly figure, since they will be zero for the rest of the year. I was amongst the first, if not the first, of the new intake of MPs to open a constituency office. My office furniture was almost all second hand.

'The figures for my first three months as MP were £35,348.85. In the following quarter my expenses were much lower, although they include more than £1,200 to advertise my surgeries in local papers, £132 of which was spent on the Arran Banner.

'To put my expenses in context, for each of the last four years, my predecessor's figures were: 2014/15 - £165,966.34; 2013/14 - £172,272.20; 2012/13 - £177,580.01 and 2011/12 - £163,391.69. For costs to show up against the name of a MP, they must submit paperwork to IPSA. Some MP costs were low because their completed paperwork was not submitted by the quarter's end. All my expenses have been agreed by IPSA as appropriate.'

Among the claims were two British Airways business/club class flights from Glasgow to London priced at £430.50 each - contributing to a £1,097.90 travel expens-

es bill, including a £3.20 train journey from Glengarnock to Kilwinning for the Segdoune crowning at the end of May.

But Mrs Gibson insisted: 'MPs' flights are booked by the parliamentary travel office. It is very difficult to be sure when you can return home due to frequent alterations to parliamentary business and flights often have to be changed at short notice. Other tickets if changed are non-refundable. I have asked and been told that flexible ticket costs must apply to both outward bound and homebound journeys.

'Of course, I did not claim any flights from end October to the end of November as I was undergoing surgery and then recuperating at home.

'Your readers may be interested to know that I flew home in the middle of my summer holiday - booked a year earlier - at my own expense of £450 back to the Commons, for the last two days of business, to vote against the Tories Welfare Reform, a vote in which Labour abstained.

'I will continue to spend prudently, commensurate with delivering an effective service to and for my constituents in both the commons and the constituency,' she added.

The lowest claim from Scottish MPs was from the Dunfermline and West Fife member Douglas Chapman who claimed £197.60. Second to Mrs Gibson was Scotland's most northerly Westminster MP Liberal Democrat's Alistair Carmichael from Orkney and Shetland who claimed £23,509.42.

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Teaching tourism at all levels is aim of new initiative

A new tourism training initiative was launched this week at the Kinloch Hotel.

The VisitArran initiative was launched in front of an audience of island businesses, who have got together to initiate a development programme for all staff on Arran.

The understanding is that for Arran to become world class, there is a need to ensure that everyone is appreciative of the role that they play in delivering service excellence.

This is relevant whether they are working behind the scenes in housekeeping,

serving customers in a shop or driving a delivery van. To this end, some of the key island businesses - the Kinloch, Auchrannie, Douglas, Arran Aromatics and Arran Distillery - have been working together to develop the Arran Training Initiative, which will offer consistent, accessible and affordable training to all staff, regardless of sector or position.

The initiative has a number of courses. Ayrshire Smiles is a basic customer service course, easily available online and only takes a couple of hours and is free to participants. Arran Welcome will

be a two-hour face-to-face generic destination induction - developed by Alison Page of Routes to Flourish.

This will highlight different areas' key attractions and how to access visitor information. It is hoped that these two courses will offer an excellent grounding for further staff development, but will also stand equally well on their own.

Professional Visitor Services (PVS) will be aimed at front-of-house staff, who are dealing with the customer on a regular basis. Often those workers who are not visible, such as telephonists, chefs and drivers, don't take cognisance of the importance of their roles, and a course will be available specifically for back-of-house staff called Be The Best (BTB). Managing Excellent Visitor Services (MEVS) is aimed at those involved in management and leadership roles. PVS, BTB and MEVS have all been developed by Auchrannie in conjunction with Ian Hunt of



Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran explains the various courses that are available.

02_b51train01



More than 30 people attended the launch at the Kinloch hotel. 02_b51train02

Training Solutions, and are already being piloted very successfully. Courses can be delivered by either Ian or Alison and a suite of course award badges has been produced.

Costs for all courses have been kept to a minimum, and delivery can either be in-house, or co-ordinated by VisitArran to take a variety of employees from different agencies at any one time.

Some dates have already been put in the diary and if anyone would like more information, please contact VisitArran on 01770 302043, or info@visitarran.com.

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Whiting Bay pupils perform Santa's on Strike for parents



A young actor reading his Arran Banner.

Pupils of Whiting Bay Primary School performed Santa's on Strike at the Whiting Bay village hall recently to a large audience.

Families, friends and members of the community enjoyed a performance of inspired acting and singing on Tuesday, December 8.

The performance told the story of a grumpy Santa who was on strike but was encouraged to have a look at how children were helping out their families.

Luckily, Santa was so moved by the helpful spirit of the children that he changed his mind and decided to end his strike, resulting in presents being delivered again.

Photos courtesy Fraser Aitchison



Santa delivers his speech.



Pupils performing Santa's on Strike.

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23rd	4pm-12am	Christmas Rock 'n' Pop Bingo	9pm
Xmas Eve 24th	4pm-2am	Christmas Eve Quiz	9pm
Xmas Day 25th	12:30-2:30pm	Open Lunchtime Only	
Boxing Day 26th	4pm-12am	Lip-Sync Battle f/b Disco	9pm
27th	12pm-12am	Ormidale King of Sports	8pm
28th	4pm-12am	Darts 'n' Doms Tournament	8pm
29th	4pm-12am	Quiz of the Year 2015	9pm
30th	4pm-12am	Rock 'n' Pop Bingo	9pm
Hogmanay 31st	4pm-2am	Hogmanay Party (tickets £5)	9pm
New Year's Day 1st Jan	Closed	Closed All Day	
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Closed from 4pm Thursday 24th December and will re-open on Monday 28th December

Last chance to have your say on partnership

'It is only right that local people have a voice'

Community groups are being reminded to have their final say on the locality partnership consultation.

The reminder comes as the nine-week consultation draws to a close this weekend and North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (NACPP) extends its thanks to everyone who has taken part.

Those who attended the consultation workshops were invited to share their opinions on how the locality partnerships will function. They heard a presentation on the locality planning journey so far from Dr Audrey Sutton, head of connected communities at North Ayrshire Council.

The weeks ahead will be

spent analysing the feedback received through the consultation workshops and from the written surveys that have been submitted. The findings will be used to inform a report with recommendations on establishing Locality Partnership Boards and will be submitted to North Ayrshire Council's cabinet and the NACPP in February for their approval.

The consultation has been well received throughout North Ayrshire with twice as many people turning up to some workshops than expected. Council Leader Councillor Willie Gibson is urging community representatives to have their say. He said: 'Community groups will determine how the locality part-

nerships will function and so their participation is key to their success. Community participation has been great so far and reflects a real appetite for closer involvement in local decisions.

'It is only right that local people have a voice and a seat at the table on the issues that affect them and the introduction of locality partnerships will facilitate that. If there are any community representatives who, for whatever reason, haven't been involved in the consultation, then this is your last opportunity to do so.'

Following Cabinet approval, locality partnerships will be established in April across each of North Ayrshire's localities.

Christmas tradition comes alive in Whiting Bay

Whiting Bay resident Bernie Jackson has been illuminating his house with Christmas decorations for the past 27 years to the delight of the families and visitors who come in their droves to take in the lights every year. For some residents it has become a Christmas tradition to brave the seasonal weather and to go and have a look at the brightly coloured reindeer in the garden and the snowmen and angels on the walls of Bernie's house in Montrose Terrace.



Bernie Jackson stands outside his festively decorated house. 02_b51lights02

Brushing aside any talk of expensive electricity bills, Bernie said: 'It's all worth it; to see the smiles on people's faces makes the effort

all the worth while.' Bernie has collected all of the decorations over the years and is constantly in the process of renewing those that no longer

work after many years of service. When asked where he gets his lights from Bernie fittingly said: 'The place for the best lights has to be Blackpool.'

Because of the number of visitors to the attraction, Bernie has started a donation box, the proceeds of which he uses to collect for worthwhile charities that he alters every year.

This year's collection is for 'Get kids going', which he is supporting as his son is running the London marathon this year in aid of the charity.



The Whiting Bay illuminations at night 02_b51lights01

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from Waste Resources

Over the festive period collection days for your blue and grey bins will change.

Normal Collection Day	Festive Collection Day
Monday 28 December 2015	Tuesday 29 December 2015
Tuesday 29 December 2015	Wednesday 30 December 2015
Wednesday 30 December 2015	Thursday 31 December 2015
Monday 4 January 2016	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Tuesday 5 January 2016	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Wednesday 6 January 2016	Thursday 7 January 2016

The actual time of your bin collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Friday 25, Saturday 26, Sunday 27 & Monday 28 December 2015** and **Friday 1, Saturday 2, Sunday 3 and Monday 4 January 2016**, but will open as normal every other day. If you have a real Christmas tree you can recycle this at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. You don't need to book in advance.

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection

Top tips for recycling in your blue bin

Right Stuff
Cardboard
Paper and cards
Plastic bottles/trays
Aluminium cans
and many more items

Wrong Stuff
Polystyrene
Electrical items
Black bin bags
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Textiles

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North Ayrshire recycled **56.5%** of household waste last year and we were the **second highest performing area in Scotland!** Thank you for your efforts and let's keep up the good work.



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

THE ARRAN BANNER

Schools review needs to be fair and transparent

As we prepare for Christmas, children are very much in our thoughts at this time.

So it is perhaps a good time to highlight some fairly serious proposals which are being considered in a review of the island schools.

Few would disagree that they provide an excellent education for the children on the island, from the very young in pre-school, right up to those who face senior exam prelims early in the new year.

Under the proposals contained in a leadership and management review of Arran's schools, there would be fewer head teachers and all deputy heads, secondary and primary, would have, for the first time, teaching commitments. If the holders of these posts have to teach as well as administer then it surely, logically, follows that fewer teachers will be needed than at present in the classrooms.

Parents, therefore, have a right to be concerned, and it is good to see the high school parent council taking the lead in trying to get a consensus of opinion around the island.

What is concerning is that the education authorities had no intention of 'going public' with this consultation process. Indeed it has emerged that some parents knew before even the staff did that a review was underway.

We are not suggesting there may not have to be changes, given falling school rolls and the desire for more consistency across the island school curriculum. However, the proposals have to be fair and transparent and available to all interested parties to have their say.

Parents have genuine concerns and these must be addressed as it is their children's education which is at the centre of the debate.

Education bosses say the current plans are only a draft and that a final proposal will be ready in the new year.

It will come as no surprise to us if the final proposal bears a striking similarity to the one already seen by The Banner.

The schools close in a matter of days for the Christmas holidays. Let's hope when they return, afresh for the new year, there are some positive developments in the months ahead.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2:10)

press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Letters to the Editor



Turbine troubles

Sir,
I was stunned and saddened to learn in last week's Banner that plans have now been submitted with only days to lodge any objections or comments, but this is the kind of tactics you can expect from turbine developers.

When I approach Ardrossan by car to come over to Arran, you are engulfed in a plethora of turbines trying laboriously to generate high cost electricity. A distracting and ugly site.

Now the talk of turbines on the Holy Isle, which I thought would have been the last place on earth to be desecrated by developers. But no - the Buddhist Monks in their simple wisdom, guided no doubt by 'experts' with promised electricity and many thousands of pounds which could be assessed at around £100,000 per year, calculated on approximately £15,000 per year for each turbine. I really don't know what was negotiated between the monks and the developers but we should all be made aware of the financial costs and arrangements before anything else.

The Holy Isle depicts serenity, tranquillity and a religious stronghold and has been since the sixth century.

It was thought that the island's future was best taken care of by the Buddhists and Lama Yeshe Rinpoche should now offer his dealings with the developers. Unless we get full information, no one can give a valued opinion. I'm very keen to learn how this proposed project was born; and then developed into firm plans.

Many people would remember the huge battle last year in Northumberland, including the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, with the proposed Barmoor Wind Turbines and how Andrew Joicey battled long and hard to save the beautiful landscape.

An action group like his Save Our Unspoiled Landscape (SOUL) would be good for Arran in order to gather all the information that is needed to make a strong case against turbines on the Holy Isle.

Projects which are purely money driven can be very dangerous and a 21st century solution like underwater cabling is surely not out of the question for such a comparative short length of water to Ardrossan coast.

It has been the case for hundreds of years - why the rush to embark on such a huge and important decision. There is much to consider on environment, wildlife, especially the birds, and the wide picture of our heritage and scenic view.

I, for one, would be so grateful to The Banner to run informative articles on this very sensitive and important issue.

Yours,
Edward Jackson
Glasgow

Ferry survey
Sir,
Following approaches by a number of agencies and individuals over the past few years, the Ferry Committee has long been discussing potential of an 8.20am sailing from Brodick on a Sunday during winter months, enabling islanders to have a full day on the mainland on a Sunday. However, we are advised that the only way this could be considered is if we lost the 7.20pm sailing from Brodick on a Saturday evening during the same period, to allow crew time for safety drills etc to take place on board the vessel.

To this end, we wish to seek fuller public opinion and would ask that readers participate in this consultation either by completing the form on page 13 in this week's Arran Banner, or participating online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AFCWinterSunday>.

Completed Banner forms can be returned either to Brodick Tourist Information Office or post to Arran Ferry Committee, % VisitArran, Brodick or dropped into the Tourist Information Office. Closing date for this consultation is Friday 8 January 2016.

Please be aware that an overall approval of such a

change to the timetable does not necessarily mean that it would happen - such a decision lies within the realms of Transport Scotland. However, your views are important and the Ferry Committee thank you in advance for your input to this consultation process.

Yours,
Arran Ferry Committee

Not in my name
Sir,

Patricia Gibson MP and John Inglis made the case against 'Syria bombing' (Letters, December 12).

I do feel a response is necessary, given that the UK Parliament took the opposite view, and that the issue has divided the electorate, as noted in various polls.

Firstly the words 'Syria Bombing' are ambiguous; the motion was to extend the existing bombing campaign in Iraq across a border that the ISIS Caliphate does not recognise; it does not mean we are at war with Syria (Assad).

I take issue with the concept that everything in the Middle East is the West's fault; the civil war in Syria evolved from the 'Arab spring' that began in 2010 in Tunisia, to my knowledge no crusaders were involved.

And of course it's complex, given the different aims and objectives of Assad, ISIS, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia. To achieve progress, we may well have to make a friend of the enemy of my enemy, as we did with the Russians in 1941.

But complexity, lack of diplomatic progress or an exit strategy (Winston, we can't land in Normandy, we don't have a diplomatic nor an exit strategy) in my view is insufficient reason for not addressing this medieval barbarism.

In my judgement the SNP position has been characterised by pious hopes and ducked responsibilities. The party has demonstrated to the world and our allies that we Scots cannot be relied upon in an international crisis, despite UN resolution 2249 which determined that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/Sham (ISIL/ISIS) constituted an 'unprecedented' threat to international peace and security, calling upon Member States with the requisite capacity to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent and suppress its terrorist acts on territory under its control in Syria and Iraq.

Also the call from François Hollande, the French president, for solidarity with Paris should go unheeded. We can put a tricolour on our Twitter and Facebook profiles instead. So much for the Auld Alliance.

At some point, an ISIS operation will evade our security forces and strike on the streets of Britain.

And you can guarantee that that moment someone will stand up and say Parliament's decision was to blame for bringing this horror upon ourselves.

But would inaction makes us safer? Would ISIS forgive us for secularism, for gay marriage, for educating women, for democracy? For being, in the words of the Paris bombers, 'decadent'? They hate us for what we are, not what we do.

There is a moral case for action; for evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing. History has taught us that lesson.

I note that all 54 SNP MPs collectively agreed that they were all of one mind on this issue; I find that statistically surprising given the division of opinion elsewhere, both amongst MPs and the electorate.

The SNP achieved 50 per cent of the vote at the 2015 General Election, but the nature of our democracy (FPTP) gave them 95 per cent of the Scottish seats.

They should remember they do not represent the views of all of the Scottish electorate. Their vote on Syria was not in my name.

Yours,
Douglas Templeton
Whiting Bay

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Campbeltown ferry to be permanent

The summer ferry service between Ardrossan and Campbeltown is to be made permanent, the government has announced.

Minister for Transport and Islands Derek Mackay announced last week that the CalMac service is to be made permanent after a trial service, which has operated for the last three years, has seen

over 10,000 passengers and 2,000 cars being transported over to the Kintyre peninsula every year.

However, while this announcement has been well received by the North Ayrshire and Kintyre business community, there is concern on Arran as the extended trial made use of the ferry servicing the Ardrossan to Brodick

route for its bi-weekly service.

Prior to the introduction of the trial service the only route to Campbeltown was via road which is a lengthy drive and which Kintyre visitors and residents have become accustomed to circumnavigating with the CalMac sailing.

Mr Mackay said: 'I'm very pleased to announce the ferry link between Ardrossan and Campbeltown will become a permanent feature of the CalMac summer timetable.'

'The pilot service proved incredibly popular and I'm sure this announcement will be welcomed by passengers and the communities at either side of the route.'

The new service will be part of an enhanced summer timetable for CalMac services which will come into operation next year.

Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results for the Arran Bridge Club are as follows: The Boyd Trophy Round 3 (match points) at Brodick on Thursday, December 10: 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Jean Barclay and Eendy McNiven, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

In the aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday, December 14 the results were: N/S 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Linda Trickett and Pat Adamson. E/W 1 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay.

Crafts for sale in Corrie



Tia Hathway at the Fandangles stall. 20_b52corrie01

The Corrie Christmas Fayre was held last weekend in the Corrie Hotel.

Stalls from across the island featuring jewellery, knitwear, Christmas gifts, photographs and toys were all for sale.

Marvin Elliot also had his wood carvings for sale while Bregha Holistic Beauty was offering special discounts on treatments.

While Saturday saw a steady trade, Sunday was reported to be busy with business much brisker. There was also live music in the lounge bar throughout the weekend.



Visitors browse the various stalls at the fayre. 20_b52corrie02

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www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/recycling



Jack prepares to climb the beanstalk. 20_b51panto07



Dame Trott joins the Fancy Feet dancers. 20_b51panto04



Daisy Cow exposed as Iona Summer and Charlotte McKillop. 20_b51panto12



Jack and Jill act as real lovebirds during the show. 20_b51panto14



The cast of Jack and the Beanstalk at the curtain call. 20_b51panto1



FairyCake Katie Morrison is a striking fairy. 20_b51panto05

Fee, fi, fo fum, giant!

Daisy Cow steals the show as Jack and the

Words and pictures by
Hugh Boag

If there was a giant, a cow, men dressed as women and vice versa in a laughter-filled community theatre it can only mean one thing. It's panto time.

This year the Lamlash Drama Club and friends presented Jack and the Beanstalk.

Taking the principle boy role of Jack was, as tradition demands, Gabrielle Allison.

Jack was given able support by Allan Little as his brother Simple Simon, his mother Dame Trott, played by Steve Garraway, and Deborah Rob-

ertson as his love interest, Jill, and The Squire, Innis Thornborn.

The story needs little telling but the panto got off to a lively start thanks to the Fancy Feet Dancers, who played the villagers. Simple Simon then gave his first salvo of the evening to get the party well and truly started.

It wasn't long before the comedy duo Snott and Bogie, the drain men, made their first appearance excellently played by Sheila Gilmore and Jill McKillop.

But perhaps the star of the show was the dancing Daisy

Cow and hiding inside were Charlotte McKillop and Iona Summer. The vital fairy was played with confidence by Katie Morrison.

When Daisy is sold for some magic beans to Fleshcreep, the evil henchman of the giant, played with gutso by David Patterson and Jill is kidnapped, cue a rescue mission by Jack and his brother Simple Simon up the beanstalk to the giant's lair.

His booming 'Fee, fi, fo, fum' puts them in initial terror until they find a not-so-scary giant, played by young Ethan Willis, and rescue Jill and the

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Snott and Bogie lend a helping h

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Jack sells Daisy to the evil Fleshcreep. 20_b51panto06

The 'giant', unmasked as Fleshcreep, gets his comeuppance. 20_b51panto09

It is not a scary one

The Beanstalk delights panto audiences

other kidnapped children. Then it's back down to earth to Dame Trott's garden for a rousing finale. Of course, no panto would be complete without the audience participation song which Snott and Bogie were back to perform with hilarious results. Everyone at the drama club both on stage and behind the scenes work extremely hard to put on an excellent production, which they perform over three days each year, and it was again excellently produced and directed by Maureen Smith. It was certainly a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.



The Squire proposes to Dame Trott as the reunited Jack and Jill look on. 20_b51panto10



The dancers from Fancy Feet get the show started. 20_b51panto01



and to Dame Trott. 20_b51panto08

Corrie & Sannox Hogmanay Party
 31st December 2015
 9.00pm - 1.30am
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall
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Festive events ensure that Shiskine Shines at Christmas

The festive Shiskine Shines events are in full swing.

They kicked off earlier in the month with the village tree lighting ceremony by local primary school children at Blackwaterfoot Harbour.

There was also a visit from Santa and a film and water zorbing for kids in the Kinloch Hotel. This was followed by the popular Mackerel Lottery in the bar and a food auction and other fun games.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who helped

put up and decorate the tree and those who helped on the day. One said: 'I hope seeing all the children having such a great time made it worth it.'

Tomorrow (Sunday) sees the family Christmas jumper competition and Mega Mackerel Lottery in the Kinloch Hotel public bar starting at 4pm.

The annual end of the year quiz takes place at 9pm on Wednesday, December 30. Proceeds from all events are going to Shiskine Valley Improvements.



A youngster tells Santa what he wants for Christmas.



Deal or No Deal in the Kinloch bar.



Youngsters enjoy zorbing in the Kinloch Hotel pool.

An excellent stocking filler for all birdwatchers

If there was one book that I would recommend for people interested in Arran and its birds, it would have to be the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 published by the Arran Natural History Society, writes Jim Cassels.

This was based on five years' field work involving more than 700 people submitting more than 36,000 records on 177 species. In the 168-page publication there are more than 400 maps and more than 200 photographs.

This is available from outlets throughout the island for only

£8, thanks to financial support from the Arran Trust and two other birding organisations.

There are a number of historical publications on the birds on Arran including, Birds of Arran, written by Robert Gray in 1872 and published by Bell and Bain of Glasgow and also The Birds of the Island of Arran written by J A Gibson in 1956 and published by Bute Newspapers Limited. While historical publications are interesting, Arran bird records are sparse until the Arran Natural History Society published its first annual Arran Bird Re-

port in 1978. These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last 30-plus years. All are available at the archives section of the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum and more recent ones are available as a free download from http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/annual_bird_reports.html

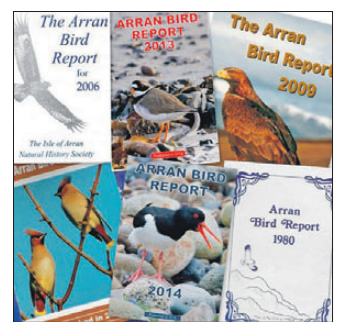
In 2006, the responsibility for writing the annual Arran bird report fell to me. To do this effectively I appreciate that I require the support of a great many people. I have been encouraged that in 2015 to date, I have received almost 9,000 bird sightings from around 300 contributors. Some of these contributors are residents and some are visitors. All share an interest in the birds of Arran and their sightings will form the basis of the Arran Bird Report 2015.

This is an end of year prompt to encourage all Banner readers to share their Arran bird sightings with me.

All contributions are welcome. I am not just interested

in rare or unusual birds, but common birds: where there are significant numbers of common birds, which birds come to the garden at different times of the year, where breeding birds have been seen, when our summer or winter visitors have arrived or departed, and what sightings have given individuals particular pleasure.

Please send all sightings for 2015, giving 'what, when, where', by Monday 11 January 2016 to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.



Some of the bird reports from previous years.

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Obituary:

Dedicated to serving the island he loved

Eric Gregory: 27 December 1942 - 22 November 2015

Eric Gregory was born in Atherton, Lancashire on December 27 1942, where he grew up with parents Jack and Ethel and his two brothers, John and Stephen.

He attended Hesketh Fletcher High School before going on to qualify as a plumber at Leigh Tech, serving his apprenticeship with a local firm Bulloughs, before becoming self-employed.

In 1966 he met Gill and they were married on November 30 1968. Eric had never been to Arran but Gill had holidayed here since her childhood and brought Eric over for the first time in 1969, staying in Trareoch, Whiting Bay. Eric instantly fell in love with the island and whilst holidaying the following year in Bellfield, Whiting Bay, he fixed up a winter let in Ingle-side and secured a job with McNicols.

Their daughter, Nell, was born in June 1970, and a few weeks later they all moved to Arran with their border collie, Tara. In 1972 they moved to Craiglea Cottage, where Eric set up his own plumbing business in Kings Cross.

A year later, their son, Daniel, was born in Lamlash. In

1979 they moved to Ingle-side, Whiting Bay, where Eric remained until he became unwell in September this year.

Eric was an exceptionally talented plumber, dedicated to serving the island and his customers. It was not unknown for him to even be called out on Christmas day to help someone in need. He was generous in his giving, people warmed to him easily and he was always happy to oblige.

His biggest loves were his music and garden, and he was well known for his talented banjo and guitar playing.

During his life he was captain of Whiting Bay Golf Club and chairman of the Whiting Bay hall committee.

He grew his own vegetables, and was a trophy winner at the horticultural show year after year. Family memories include long walks on the beach, fishing trips, hill walking and picnics up Glen Rosa, which to this day remains a family favourite.

He was a keen golfer and another passion was his pets. This included keeping hens, and he was very generous in supplying friends and family with eggs as well as his veg-

etables.

This isn't the first time that Eric has appeared in The Banner. As well as his many horticultural show trophy wins, he featured when his dog Timmy was stolen by a visitor back in 2003, not to mention another story when his crowing rooster was given a reprieve. He certainly was a character and his tenacity saw him through many scrapes over the years!

Despite living an almost exclusive life in his latter years, he still enjoyed the things he loved and the company of his closest friends. During his stay in hospital, he kept the doctors and nurses entertained with his stories and jokes. He spent three weeks in Ayr Hospital, but his home was calling and although it was only for a short period of time, he was happy to have had his last days on his beloved island. Eric was a brother, husband, dad, uncle, grandpa and friend. He passed away peacefully, aged 72, in the early hours of Sunday morning November 22 2015 in Arran War Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family. He will be missed.

NW

Lamlash SWI president welcomes members to an early Christmas party

Lamlash SWI held an early Christmas party on Wednesday December 2.

President Alison Thompson welcomed members and distributed programmes and song sheets for the evening.

Robert Halliday was on hand to get the party going with a wide selection of familiar Scottish music.

With such a delicious finger buffet in sight, the business section of the meeting was quickly completed and, with drinks in hand, the members enjoyed the superb and varied supper.

After supper, the buffet tables were cleared away and the entertainment could begin. With Robert accompanying, the singing started.

Groups and individual added their own lines to a basic outline of a shopping song from days gone by. Plenty of cheese/knees, ham/spam rhymes but most inventive contribution must surely have been soup and cantaloupe.

Rights and lefts

Pass the parcel was organised by Vivienne, whose accompanying Christmas story contained lots of rights and lefts to change the direction of the passing. This is not as easy as it sounds.

Secret Santa parcels were on display and points for the best wrapped one went to Ann Miller.

Exhibition winner points for a hand bell were awarded to Rosemary Roberts. The raf-

fle, containing a wide variety of items including two beautiful quilted cushion covers, provided a welcome contribution to institute funds.

The evening came to a very boisterous end with a Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz and the singing of the ever-popular Auld Lang Syne.

After this members headed home clutching Secret Santa parcels and doggy bags from the buffet.

Many thanks must go to the organisers of the entertainment and especially to Nan's husband, Robert, whose accordion playing was described as 'brilliant'.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members.



Eric Gregory with his beloved dog Timmy.

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and stories to
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banner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

Isle of Arran Ferry Committee PUBLIC CONSULTATION

If Arran was to have access to an 0820 sailing from Brodick during winter months on a Sunday, we would require to lose the 1920 sailing on a Saturday evening during the same period.

Do you agree with this option or not?

Yes No

Island Resident Other

Comments (optional)

Contact details (optional): Name:
Address:

Responses can be posted to AFC % VisitArran, Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU or handed into the Tourist Information Office, Brodick by or before Friday 8th January 2016

NB: This survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AFCWinterSunday>

Treasured taste of Arran part of new recipe book

A new book featuring traditional Scottish recipes from around the country, including one from Arran, has been launched. After a nationwide appeal, more than 40 recipes have been included in the free publication, with a small bit of background story for each dish.

Produced by VisitScotland, 'You'll have had yer tea' Treasured tastes of Scotland' includes a recipe for nut fingers that was submitted by Rhona Anderson from Ar-

ran and who has very happy memories of her carefree island childhood and her mother's tasty treats.

Writing in the book, Rhona recalls: 'Mum's recipe for nut fingers, written in her own handwriting, takes me back to the idyllic summer days of my childhood helping out on our coastal farm on the Isle of Arran. Whether we were lifting heavy bales in the hayfield or rolling newly clipped fleeces down to the sheep tank, we were glad to stop

at 'cup-time'. Neighbouring farming families worked together, so at 'cup-time' there was always a crowd of hot and hungry harvesters or sheep shearers and their young helpers.

'We would see mum appear at the edge of the field laden with a huge basket, tea cans and tartan rug. My brother

and I would run to help carry the load, competing to be first to see what home baking was under the tea towel. Warm pancakes dripping with butter? Giant scones with bramble jelly? Chocolatey tray bake? My special favourite was nut fingers. Crispy shortcrust slices with a moist walnutty topping made my

mouth water and is one of many happy memories of my carefree island childhood.'

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said: 'From Mum's Traditional Scotch Broth to Granny Norma's Custard Creams, 'You'll have had yer tea' is a mouth-watering collection of recipes that serves as the perfect accompaniment to the Year of Food and Drink.

'Many of the treasured memories contained within the book are of Scottish people sitting down to enjoy meals together as a family.

'We would encourage people to do this more often, where possible, so they can create their own precious memories around mealtimes and I am sure this book will give them some fantastic inspiration for traditional Scottish cooking.'

The foreword for the book is provided by Scottish chef and food enthusiast Shirley Spear. She writes: 'The idea behind this recipe book was to create a legacy for the Year of Food and Drink 2015, reminding ourselves of our local Scot-

tish roots, our home-cooking skills and memories of days gone by when family food, cooking and eating together were more prevalent. I would love to see more of this in future.'

Scotland's Food Secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'Scotland has a stellar reputation as being a land of food and drink. We are fortunate enough to have a fantastic natural larder right here on our doorstep and more people should take advantage of that, helping Scotland move towards being a good food nation. Using this new recipe book to create traditional Scottish dishes, using locally-sourced produce, is not only good for the food and drink industry here; it also ensures the food on your plate is in-season and fresher.'

'You'll have had yer tea' Treasured tastes of Scotland' is available free of charge from VisitScotland Information Centres throughout Scotland and can also be obtained online at www.visitScotland.com/ebrochures/en/recipe-book/

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Nut fingers recipe

Ingredients

- 1 x swiss roll tin lined with approx 150g shortcrust pastry
- 100g walnuts, roughly chopped
- 300g demerara sugar
- 50g dessicated coconut
- 2tsp plain flour
- Half a tsp baking powder
- 1tsp vanilla essence
- 2 beaten eggs
- 50g sultanas

Method

1. Pre heat oven to 190 C/Gas No5.
2. Part bake pastry base to crisp but not colour.
3. In a bowl, mix together all remaining ingredients and spread the mixture evenly over the base.
4. Bake for 20 minutes until pastry is golden and topping is crunchy and toasted.
5. Set aside to cool then cut into fingers.
6. For best results, pack in a picnic and eat out in the fresh air!

Makes approx 24 depending on size.

Council IT service is best in Scotland

North Ayrshire Council's IT service is the best amongst Scotland's local authorities.

Of the 10 Scottish councils that took part in the SOCITM customer satisfaction survey during 2014/15, the council came first for satisfied customers.

The rating now puts the council in the top quartile of more than 50 local authorities across the UK that took part

in the survey over the same period.

SOCITM is the society for IT practitioners in the public sector.

It produces research into how the sector can save money and innovate while operating in challenging financial times.

The society also advocates to the government in the interests of public sector IT.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 22 December, 1995

Lagg sale

The Lagg Hotel, one of the island's oldest and most charming hotels, has been sold after an almost record time on the market.

It was over four years ago that proprietors Ron and Barbara Stewart bought Dippen Lodge and put the hotel on the market. Being at the start of the economic slump, no buyer was found but last Saturday a deal was finally clinched when Ronnie Moore, whose wife's family used to own the hotel generation ago, bought the hotel.

Ron and Barbara Stewart had owned the Lagg Hotel since 1980.

Covert operation

Twelve plain clothes police officers have been operating on Arran over the past two weeks. Described as a 'covert intelligence gathering operation' it has been part of a crackdown on users and dealers of drugs. At the same time pity the poor policeman trying to go incognito on Arran.

There have also been reports of two strangers drinking in a Lamlash pub last week, each wearing new checked shirts and

carefully pressed new jeans. Fellow drinkers reported something suspicious about them.

Festive campaign

Drivers were astonished to find police road blocks at many points around the island last week. One traffic car was on Arran and they, and local police, had selected positions to take up and stop passing vehicles. They checked tyres, carried out vehicle checks and breathalysed drivers.

One Whiting Bay lady on being stopped and asked to provide a breath test told police that she had never in her life tasted alcohol. The response, we understand, was: 'We've heard that one before'.

Lottery money

Lamlash Golf Club has been awarded £85,000 by the National Lottery. This is the result of an idea started five years ago to add an extension to the golf clubhouse as a 'junior facility'.

The whole project is likely to cost £250,000 and the golf club is seeking further public monies with the aim of starting work at the end of next year.



The lucky winners of the Christmas film competition are five year old Fraser Thomson of Lamlash and Laura Keeney, 10, of Whiting Bay. Fraser will take his family to see Casper and Laura will take her family to see Pocahontas at the Brodick cinema. b51tw03



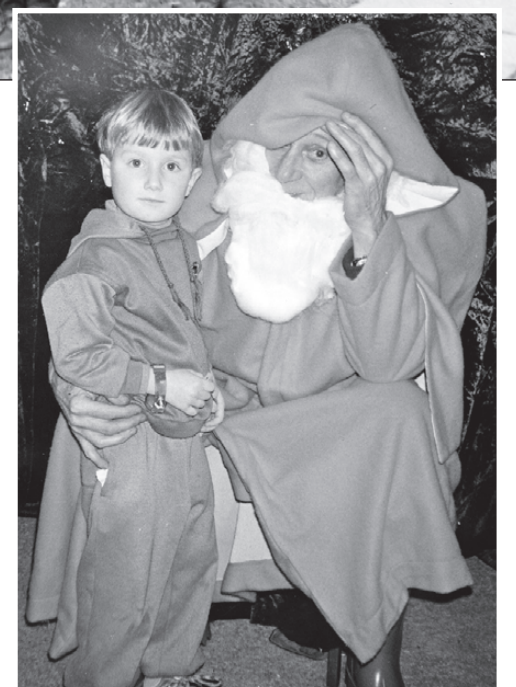
Among all of the festive events taking place across the island, Kilmory Primary school put on a nativity play last Tuesday called A Night of Magic which was presented to family and friends. b51tw04



Above: The Arran Young Naturalists, who meet at the Brodick Castle ranger centre, had an end of term and presentation of prizes party last Saturday. Young Naturalist of the Year was awarded to Sarah West who is standing in the centre with her cup and her book that she received as a prize. Runners up were Mark Higgins and John MacDonald. b51tw01



Last week's AGM of the Arran Tourist Board was their final one before handing matters over to the new Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board. During its lifetime the Tourist Board has had five chairmen, three of whom are pictured from l to r: Ronnie Mann, John Forgie and Robin Crawford. b51tw02



Right: Santa says 'Peek-a-boo' to Jamie McClelland at the Shiskine Hall fete last Saturday. b51tw05

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon, Wed & Sat: 10am - 5pm, Tue & Thu: 12.30-5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day

Saturday 19th December

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Live music from 2 Bob Rocket
 Live music from Arran Ceilidh Band
 Brodick Castle Visitor Centre
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 Ceilidh Dancing
 Brodick Castle Christmas Market
 Christmas disco

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Brodick, 9.30am - 11am
 The PHT, Lamlash, 8pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Brodick, 11am - 3pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Brodick castle 1pm - 6pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 1am

Sunday 20th December

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians and singers welcome
 Brodick Castle Visitor Centre
 Christmas Jumper comp and mackerel Lottery
 Brodick Castle Christmas Market

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Brodick, 11am - 3pm
 Kinloch Hotel from 4.30pm
 Brodick castle 1pm - 6pm

Monday 21st December

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Live music - North Country Winters
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit Training
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Bridge Club
 Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers
 Tae Kwon-do
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
 Corrie Hall, 2-4pm

Tuesday 22nd December

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Rotary club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 9am - 10.30am
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm

Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Open Cricket Session
 Non- competitive bridge
 Lamlash Drama Club
 Winter Bowls
 Christmas pop music quiz

NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
 Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Wednesday 23rd December

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwon-do
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Brodick Castle Visitor Centre
 Yoga-Arran
 Live music
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group
 Carols for Christmas with Arran Brass
 Christmas Rock 'n' pop Bingo
 Wednesday Winter Warmers

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Brodick, 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Brodick, 11am - 3pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
 Brodick Hall, 7pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Lochranza Centre, 11am - 2pm

Thursday 24th December

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Ladies Hockey
 Brodick Castle Visitor Centre
 Cardiac Rehab
 Burger & Quiz night
 Winter Bowls
 Christmas Eve church service
 Christmas Eve party with Matt Johnston
 Christmas Eve Quiz

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 9am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Brodick, 11am - 3pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 St Molios church, 11.30pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 2am
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 25th December

MERRY CHRISTMAS



www.arranbrewery.com

Public Notices

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Frances Hamilton has registered their croft Smiddy Field, High Kildonan, Isle of Arran on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration map apply to the Scottish Land Court by 24 August 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1987.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools.

However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request**.

Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294 324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school. **Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2016 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2016.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2016, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published over 3 weeks beginning the week of 21 December 2015.

JOHN BUTCHER
Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DOMESTIC AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (ISLE OF ARRAN)

Over the festive period collection days for your blue and grey bins will change. Isle of Arran Festive and New Year Working Arrangements

Normal Collection Day	Festive Collection Day
Monday 28 December 2015	Tuesday 29 December 2015
Tuesday 29 December 2015	Wednesday 30 December 2015
Wednesday 30 December 2015	Thursday 31 December 2015
Monday 4 January 2016	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Tuesday 5 January 2016	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Wednesday 6 January 2016	Thursday 7 January 2016

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection. The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

The last special uplift collection for 2015 will be on Friday 18 December 2015. Special uplift bookings for the new Year will start on 5 January 2016 with collections starting 11 January 2016.

Large items of flat packed cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period.

Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your grey bin for 7am, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 11 January 2016.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on Friday 25, Saturday 26, Sunday 27 & Monday 28 December 2015 and Friday 1, Saturday 2, Sunday 3 and Monday 4 January 2016, but will open as normal every other day. You do not need to book in advance to use the Household Recycling Centre.

The telephone number for North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Service over the festive period is 01770 600338 or visit our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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Trust Housing Association offices on Arran and the Mainland and the Arran Care & Repair office will be closed from:

2pm on Thursday 24 December 2015 until 9am on Tuesday 5 January 2016.

If you have an emergency repair please contact:

0333 321 6418

Sheltered and Amenity Tenants with an emergency repair should pull their alarm cord.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our tenants and contractors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

To all our friends on Arran
Love
Sal & Greta



SEASONS GREETINGS

Janet Mulholland Wishes all her relatives and friends here and abroad a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Ricky & Liz Kennedy

Donation in lieu of Christmas cards to Scottish Association for Mental Health



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my friends on Arran
Linda Ross in Devon



SEASONS GREETINGS

Nancy Canon is not sending any Christmas Cards this year as she is donating to ArCaS.

The New Instant

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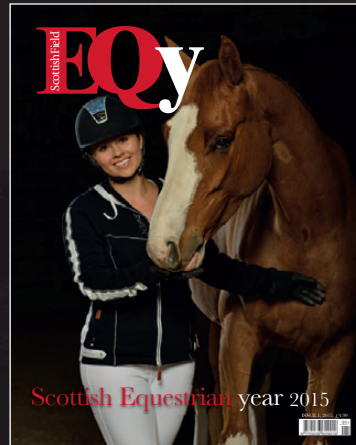


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- Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
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U.S Mail Box new £25 Tel: 07980671267

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 20th December
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine
Independent but working together
Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 20th December

Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Pirmill Church.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Family Service.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Family Service.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting,
12 noon Family Service.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 20th December

Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
Family Services
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 20th December
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 20th December

An all age service for Christmas will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service. There will be the monthly sale of Traidcraft goods available.

There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm.
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 20th December
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 20th December
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

DEATH

JOHNSTON, Iain, MBE

- Peacefully at his home in Brodick on Thursday 10 December 2015, aged 82, Iain Johnston, much loved and sadly missed by all the family and also by his close friends and the extended Auchrannie "family". He will live on in our fond memories and in his legacy for Arran.

There will be a celebratory memorial service at Auchrannie Spa Resort on Friday 18 December at 11.30am. All welcome.

The family would like to express sincere thanks to Iain's care team led by Mhairi Skillington and to the many staff at NHS Ayrshire and Arran who cared for Iain during his declining health. Thanks also to Rev Angus Adamson, Hendry's and the team at Auchrannie Resort for his memorial arrangements.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday December 12, 18 hole medal, eight played. 1 W Paton 73-5=68, 2 B Kelso 84-12=72, BIH, 3 P Betley 84-12=72. Scratch W Paton 73.

Sunday December 13, Ryder Cup round one, 32 played. Torbeg 5, Shiskine 3, Blackwaterfoot 6, Kilpatrick 2, Torbeg win the bonus point. The table after the 1st round looks like this: Torbeg 6, Blackwaterfoot 6, Shiskine 3, Kilpatrick 2.

Jack McNally won nearest the pin at the 4th hole, Colin Rutterford at the 10th hole.

Fixtures: Saturday, December 19, Lochranza v Shiskine at 1.30pm. Sunday December 20, Ryder Cup at 1pm. Saturday December 26, Texas Scramble, phone 860226 to book a time.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 13, Winter Cup round three. After the persistent rain of the last week, what a pleasure to get out on the golf course frozen to the bone but dry. Nine played and the earlier games had the trickiest of the conditions as frost bound greens thawed - putting was decidedly unpredictable.

Conditions remained tricky throughout the morning, however, and the CSS went out to its maximum of 66.

1 David Brookens (12) 66 acb, 2 Ronnie Mann (12)66, 3 Stan Rainey (10)67. Jamie Macpherson's 75 was the lowest gross score and the only magic two of the day went to Stan Rainey at the 17th.



Piet Johnston (right) winner of the Arran Ladies Golf Union Drumadoon Tray competition with runner up Susan Butchard.

Fixtures: Sunday December 20, friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash, 10am start. Hoping for good weather and a good turnout, it's always a fun day, just turn up and play.

Brodick Golf Club

Saturday December 12, Saturday Cup. 1 J Armit 36 pts. Sunday December 13, Brandon and Winter Cup. 1 K McMillan 78-13=65, 2 I Macdonald 74-7=67.

At last the Saturday cup was played with a very small field. Only one winner, Jimmy, obviously recovered sufficiently from being blown over the previous week and kept it together, well done.

The last recorded competition was played on Sunday, October 25 - seven weeks ago, quite a break. Again only a small field appeared from forced hibernation but one of quality with the conditions and some good scoring.

Kenny also winning the sec-

ond class, Brandon and Ian the first class, well done to both.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 10, Yellow Medal, CSS 64, par 61. 1 Mark Wren 74-1=64, 2 Andy Smith 88-10=70. Magic two Allan Winship at the ninth. Sunday December 13, Glenburn Cup, CSS 65, par 64. 1 Iain Bremner 74-7=67. Magic two Andy Smith at the 13th.

Fixtures: Sunday December 20, Lamlash v Whiting Bay winter friendly 10.30am for 11.00am start. Thursday December 24, Yellow Medal, 11.00am start. Saturday December 26 Boxing Day bottle, 12noon start.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday December 12, Sweep. 1 B Rooney 76-12=64, 2 A McDonald 76-11=65, 3 A Burke 78-12=66. Magic twos for R Burke, B Rooney. Monday December

14, Monday Cup. 1 A Smith 65-7=58, 2 J McGovern 67-7=60, 3 J McConnachie 67-6=61. Magic twos for J McGovern, A Smith, J McConnachie (2) and A Napier (2).

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Saturday December 12, Drumadoon Tray. 13 Ladies played. 1 Piet Johnston, Shiskine 92-22=70, 2 and scratch Susan Buchard, Whiting Bay 84-11=73, BIH, 3 Kate McAdam, Lamlash 93-20=73, well done girls.

Thanks to Shiskine Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and to Sarah for the lovely sandwiches and tea and coffee after the game.

Fixture: Saturday January 30 at Brodick Golf Club. Happy Christmas and a good New Year to all lady golfers on Arran. Do join the club for the next fixture, everyone is most welcome.

GRADUATION



Alison Currie

Recently graduated from the Open University with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Psychology with a 2:1 grading.

'Look at me! The names Ally C, I might be a Grantee, But I just got a degree in Psychology!!'

Love from Ian, Hazel, Georgia, Caitlin and Jemima

DIAMOND WEDDING

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Ken and Sheila Shearman for 60 happy years of marriage.

Love Diane, Maddie and Clara xx

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

To the woman & son, the Lamlash minister and husband and another man for helping to get my car going after having a flat battery at Lamlash cemetery, Mary MacKinlay

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Arran Ladies end year on a high after fine victory in Glasgow

Strathclyde University 2nds 0
Arran Ladies 3

This was the Arran Ladies Hockey Club's last game of 2015 and they wanted to end the year on a high.

Both teams were evenly matched and the game could have gone either way until Arran made the breakthrough by scoring after 32mins, holding onto their lead until half time.

The Strathclyde University 2nds came back fighting in the second half but Arran scored a further two goals to make the final score 3-0. Arran's goals were scored by Anne Watts and captain Victoria McNicol.

After the game Victoria said: 'We all played well together and enjoyed the game. We had two substitutes which was great. The opposition

voted Anne Watts man of the match whilst we voted Pauline Reid as dame of the game for her teamwork and dedication and stepping into the goalie shoes for the match.'

Arran Ladies are now two games behind the leaders, due to cancellations, but if they win their next match on Saturday, January 16 at home to Dumfries then they go back to the top of the league.



Arran Ladies stoutly defend another attack by the home side.



The competition winners with their trophies, l to r: Vic Iutz, Marian Brambles, Peter Milne, Dave Brambles, Margaret Kerr, John Robinson and Christine Robinson.

Bowling winners at Blackwaterfoot

The Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club recently held its annual meeting, trophy presentation and annual dinner at the Kinloch Hotel.

Twenty members and guests heard about club activities throughout the year, which included the successful organisation of the Federation and Laidler Gardiner inter-club competitions. Chairman Vic Iutz thanked all members involved in the planning and completion of the new pavilion and were reminded of the success of the out-of-season bowls games on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the autumn. Members from other bowl-

ing clubs from around the island were also now joining in, they heard.

Last December, club members held a bowls match on Boxing Day. This will be repeated this year, weather permitting.

Invited

Members old and new together with bowlers from around the island are invited. Contact Keith Thompson on 01770 860 463 for details.

After the meeting, trophies were presented to winners of the competitions held throughout the year, followed by the annual dinner.

Trophies handed out at Whiting Bay

Whiting Bay Bowling Club recently held its 2015 season prizegiving recently. The trophy winners for the season were as follows: Co-op Salver; N Pringle and S Kerr. Angus Cook Memorial Trophy; C Weir, C Haggerty and R Crawford. Royal Bank Triples; C Wannop and R Frame.

Anniversary Triples; C Weir, C Haggerty and R Crawford. Whiting Bay Fun Week Shield; C Weir, A McCrindle, D Hendry and R Crawford. Shurig Shield; J Douglas, K Kellsal and I Davidson. Kiscadale Pairs Shield; M Pringle and N Pringle. Ladies singles champion;

J Douglas. Gents singles champion; N Pringle. The Gordon MacDonald Memorial Trophy; M Pringle and N Pringle. Tom and Jennie Robison Memorial Trophy; N Cook and E Picken. Whiting Bay BC (Jim's trophy sets); S Allen and N Cook. Best 10 scores; K Kellsal.



Whiting Bay Bowling Club trophy winners for the season.

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